



A Different Kind of Cloud

Anne Belovich

Even on the clearest summer day, a white cloud hovers over our viewing pavilion, which snuggles into a half circle of alders and wild cherry trees at the end of a formal modern rose garden. A musky fragrance drifts down from the trees and small white rose petals fall on our heads. Look more carefully and you will see that the cloud is made up of thousands of small single white flowers carried in huge clusters by a rose that has pushed its way up into the tree to a height of about 40 feet and shows no signs of slowing down. This giant is KIFTSGATE, a *Rosa filipes* garden selection from Kiftsgate Court, a private estate in Gloucestershire, England, where it grows to 80 by 90 by 50 feet. I was quite innocent of the rose's potential size when I planted it about 15 years ago as a small rooted cutting, but now I often wonder if I will come out someday to find the tree on its side with the triumphant rose on top.

Only those gardeners having a strong tree or a large barn in excellent repair should consider growing KIFTSGATE. But don't despair. You can still have your rose cloud. There are less vigorous KIFTSGATE offspring that are even more attractive and will still climb high enough to thoroughly impress your family and friends. A neighboring alder behind my pavilion supports BRENDA COLVIN, which bears clusters of light pink, barely double, small flowers with a strong musk-like fragrance. Originally found in an English garden near a KIFTSGATE rose, it was thought to be a "bee cross" between that plant and an unknown rose in the garden. TREASURE TROVE, also from England and a favorite of mine, is another such accidental hybrid. The small, cup-shaped double flowers open in apricot, fade to buff, and then to



LEFT: Brenda Colvin. TOP: Kiftsgate.
ABOVE: Treasure Trove.
Photos by Anne Belovich.



cream. One of my Grand Firs is host to this lovely rose. KIFTSGATE is very fertile and the seeds germinate easily. I find its seedlings everywhere around this rose and am saving the most promising ones.

Several rose hybridizers have used KIFTSGATE in their breeding programs. Louis Lens created DENTELLE DE BRUXELLES, a beautiful carmine red shrub/short climber, from KIFTSGATE and VIOLET HOOD (ROBIN HOOD × BABY FAURAX). Another shrub climber, his PLEINE DE GRACE with pure white single flowers in huge panicles, was derived from BALLERINA and *R. filipes*, probably in the form of KIFTSGATE. We grow many plants of this variety around our birch grove which is graced in the center by a small rustic pavilion, a memorial for our Alaskan Malemute sled dogs.

André Eve worked with KIFTSGATE and JOSEPH'S COAT and produced the climbing sisters SUZON, SUZY, and SUZETTE. The first two are the best of the lot. SUZON puts on a real show with large clusters of three-inch semi-double orange flowers that slowly change to pink, creating a dramatic color combination. SUZY

is quite different with good-sized fully double, pale yellow blooms. SUZETTE is similar in form but creamy white in color and the petals in the unfolding blooms tend to form a quartered arrangement that gives them a wonderful vintage look. SUZON and SUZY are fragrant and all will grow to 25 or 30 feet—enough to make visitors say “ooh!” and “ah!” Just as you would expect with any first generation species hybrid, none of the roses in this article are remontant, but SUZY blooms for an extended period in summer. SUZON, still not commercially available in this country, waits in my quarantine plot, hopefully to be released by the state inspector this summer. SUZY can be ordered from André Eve in France, and SUZETTE is available from Freedom Gardens in Ohio.

A. C. Tunningley, a little-known but talented hybridizer from New York State, has married KIFTSGATE to THE MONSTER (OLD BLUSH × WHITE LADY BANKS) and has given the best of the offspring the delightful name, OLD LADY GATES, derived as you can see from the parent’s names. The flowers of this vigorous climber are double, pink, fragrant, and fairly large at 1.75 inches. Robert Ripptoe is taking this promising but once-blooming rose a step further in his California rose garden. Now we can hope for a rose with the beauty and great vigor of KIFTSGATE, the Chinas and the Banksias, but one that will give us a full season of bloom.



LEFT: Pavilion with Kiftsgate.
TOP: Suzette. ABOVE: Suzon.
Photos by Anne Belovich.

ANNE BELOVICH and her husband Max live in Washington State in a home they built themselves in a woodland clearing where she grows more than 900 roses, mostly Climbers and Ramblers. Anne, who currently serves on the board of the HRF, holds a master’s degree in Botany from UCLA. She has been a transoceanic sailor, professor of microbiology, general contractor, and founder of a humane society, but her interests now center around her husband, her dogs, and a Rambler collection of 225 varieties, many very rare. She hopes to make all of the rare Ramblers commercially available.